H 75/4/989

"It Can't Happen to My Home!"

Are You Sure?

Annually about 112,000 fires start on forest, brush and grasslands, burning 4.8 million acres, destroying countless structures and killing an average of 29 people.

United States Department of Agriculture

PREPARED BY Forest Service

Southwestern Region

A 13.2:

READEX FICHE best copy available

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIREPROOF YOUR HOUSE:

Protect the Roof — treat wood shingle roofs and siding with retardant chemicals. Have enough garden hose available to reach all parts of the roof. Clean gutters and roof of all needles and leaves.

Prevent Chimney and Flue Fires — check for accumulation of soot. Keep dampers in good repair. Put fires out in fireplaces *prior* to leaving home. Soak hot ashes in a covered metal container (see page 10). Have an adequate spark arrestor on your fireplace chimney (see page 7-8).

Prevent Attic Fires — install a fine metal screen over attic vents and louvers to prevent burning brands from entering the attic.

Check Overhanging Eaves — cover gaps between walls and the eaves to prevent entry of sparks from outside into the attic.

Clean Storage Areas — don't allow newspapers and rags to accumulate. Keep flammable liquids in unbreakable containers.

Remove Dead Limbs — from any trees adjacent to or overhanging your house or garage. They catch fire easily from sparks — as does *firewood*. Don't stack firewood under your porch or house or next to your house.

Enclose Open Decks and Under-Flooring — all open under-floor and over-hanging floor or deck area should be either enclosed to prevent embers from blowing under, or kept free of all inflammable material.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIREPROOF YOUR PROPERTY:

Adequate Water Supply — and have sufficient hose, nozzles, and a pump or dependable, pressurized water system available.

Control Vegetation — remove dense fuels that burn rapidly. Cut small trees and brush. Leave only the widely-spaced larger trees. Develop a green lawn or rock garden for a space around the house, or mow the natural vegetation to keep it low. Do landscaping with both *fire protection* and *beauty* in mind. This has proven to be a very effective fire prevention measure.

Eliminate Illegal Dumps — garbage dumps are a common source of fires. Look over your area for such dumps and start action to clean them up. Haul garbage and trash to legal dumps.

Dispose of Debris — clean up inflammable debris, such as accumulated dead vegetation, in accordance with local regulations. Apply for burning permits and contact nearest fire control agencies *prior* to burning. An escaped fire can be costly to you!

Provide Access — to enable safe travel to and from your property. Open dead-end roads with short dirt connections to other roads. At least, get wide turn-around areas at the end of dead-end roads. It is difficult to get a firetruck to your home if the access roads are steep and narrow.

Build Fire Breaks — consider clearing a trail, at least 6 feet wide, near the outer edge of the place you plan to fireproof. This trail will slow down a running ground fire and make access easier for firefighters.

Barbecues and incinerators — clear an area of all flammable materials for at least 5 feet all around your barbecue or incinerator and have a metal screen over all open incinerators. Locate the barbecue or incinerator away from trees and at least thirty (30) feet from structures.

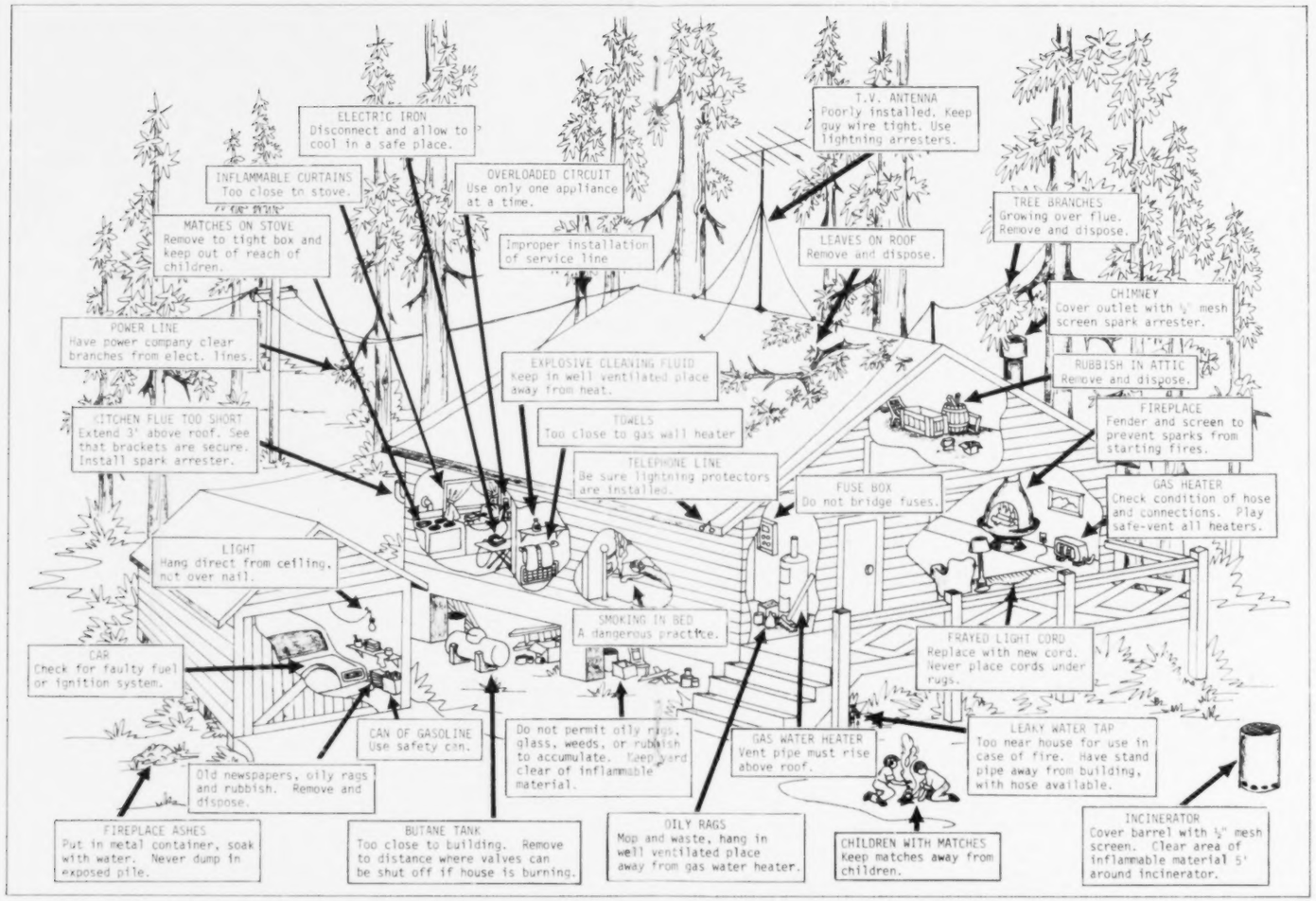
KEEP FIRE PREVENTION IN MIND WHEN LANDSCAPING

- Thin and prune trees.
- Mow grass and remove brush.
- Plant and maintain a green belt or lawn around the house.

BEFORE

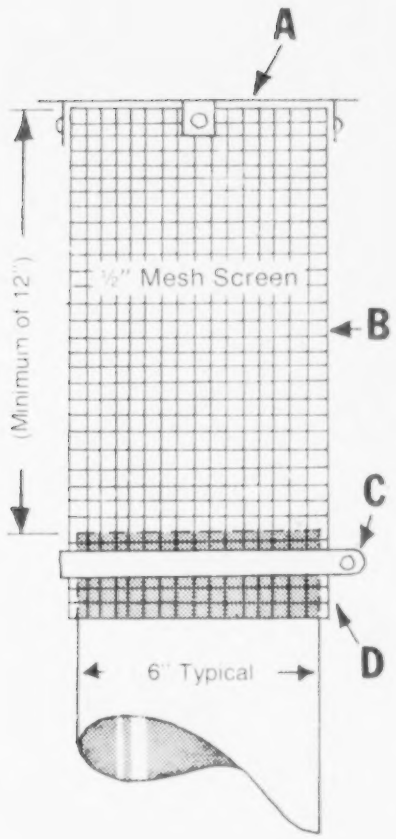
- Move firewood from house.
- Clean leaves from roof and rain gutter.
- Screen chimneys and incinerators.

AFTER


ELECTRIC IRON
Disconnect and allow to cool in a safe place.
INFLAMMABLE CURTAINS
Too close to stove.
OVERLOADED CIRCUIT
Use only one appliance at a time.
T.V. ANTENNA
Poorly installed. Keep guy wire tight. Use lightning arresters.
MATCHES ON STOVE
Remove to tight box and keep out of reach of children.
Improper installation of service line
LEAVES ON ROOF
Remove and dispose.
TREE BRANCHES
Growing over flue. Remove and dispose.
POWER LINE
Have power company clear branches from elect. lines.
CHIMNEY
Cover outlet with ½" mesh screen spark arrester.
EXPLOSIVE CLEANING FLUID
Keep in well ventilated place away from heat.
RUBBISH IN ATTIC
Remove and dispose.
KITCHEN FLUE TOO SHORT
Extend 3' above roof. See that brackets are secure. Install spark arrester.
TOWELS
Too close to gas wall heater
FIREPLACE
Fender and screen to prevent sparks from starting fires.
TELEPHONE LINE
Be sure lightning protectors are installed.
FUSE BOX
Do not bridge fuses.
GAS HEATER
Check condition of hose and connections. Play safe-vent all heaters.
LIGHT
Hang direct from ceiling, not over nail.
SMOKING IN BED
A dangerous practice.
FRAYED LIGHT CORD
Replace with new cord. Never place cords under rugs.
CAR
Check for faulty fuel or ignition system.
CAN OF GASOLINE
Use safety can.
Do not permit oily rags, glass, weeds, or rubbish to accumulate. Keep yard clear of inflammable material.
GAS WATER HEATER
Vent pipe must rise above roof.
LEAKY WATER TAP
Too near house for use in case of fire. Have stand pipe away from building, with hose available.
Old newspapers, oily rags and rubbish. Remove and dispose.
FIREPLACE ASHES
Put in metal container, soak with water. Never dump in exposed pile.
BUTANE TANK
Too close to building. Remove to distance where valves can be shut off if house is burning.
OILY RAGS
Mop and waste, hang in well ventilated place away from gas water heater.
CHILDREN WITH MATCHES
Keep matches away from children.
INCINERATOR
Cover barrel with ½" mesh screen. Clear area of inflammable material 5' around incinerator.

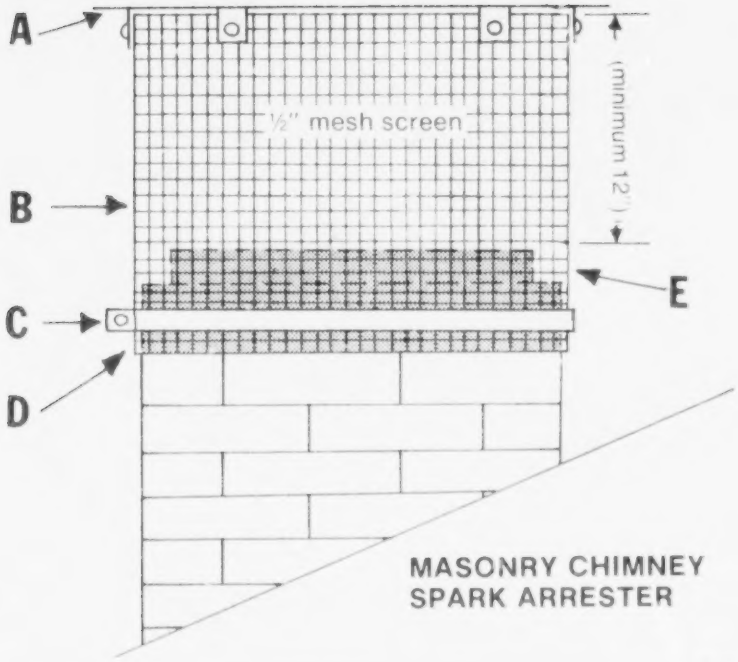
CHECK AND CORRECT EVERY HAZARD WITH EXTREME CARE

CHIMNEY SPARK ARRESTERS



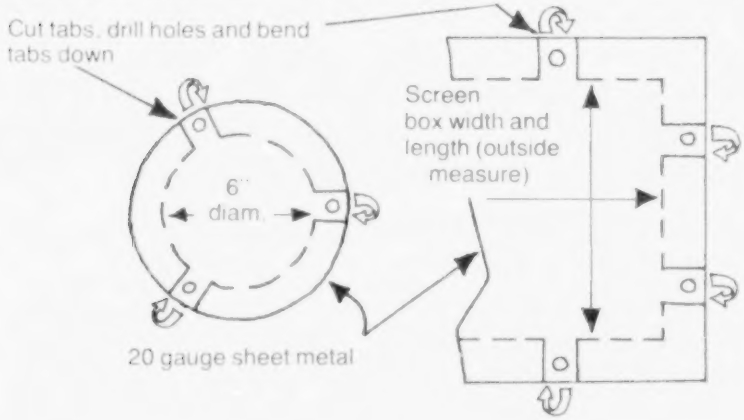
A	20 gauge galvanized sheet metal cap plate (Fasten to screen with stove bolts) Optional—fold screen to close up. Use ½ inch mesh max. heat-resistant, heavy mesh screen.
B	Lace or stitch seams with No. 14 galvanized steel wire. Seams can also be welded.
C	⅛" x 1" metal strap with ¼" stove bolt.
D	Lap screen 3" over chimney.
E	For large chimneys, strengthen screen mesh box with angle iron in the inside corners.

METAL STOVEPIPE SPARK ARRESTER



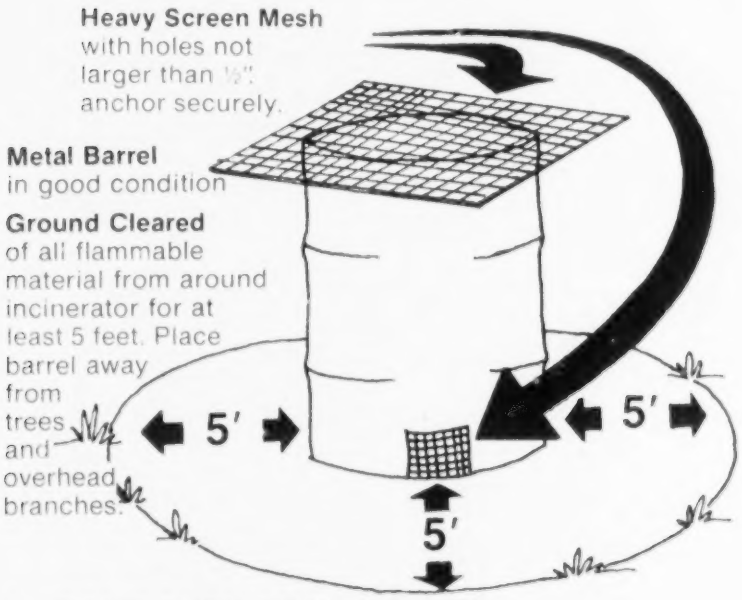
MASONRY CHIMNEY
SPARK ARRESTER

TYPICAL CAP PLATE CONSTRUCTION



TRASH BURNING TIPS

1. **BURN TRASH IN A SAFE INCINERATOR.**
   Shown below is a barrel type incinerator, illustrating minimum fire safety requirements.


Heavy Screen Mesh with holes not larger than ½"; anchor securely.
Metal Barrel in good condition
Ground Cleared of all flammable material from around incinerator for at least 5 feet. Place barrel away from trees and overhead branches.
5'
5'
5'

2. **DON'T BURN ON WINDY DAYS.**

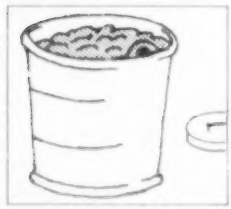
3. **HAVE SOMEONE STAY WITH THE FIRE UNTIL IT IS COMPLETELY OUT.**

4. **HAVE WATER & SHOVEL READILY AVAILABLE IN CASE FIRE ESCAPES.**

5. **CHECK WITH LOCAL FIRE DEPT. AND HEALTH DEPT. BEFORE BURNING TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED BURNING AND AIR QUALITY PERMITS.**

SAFE DISPOSAL of FIREPLACE ASHES

1

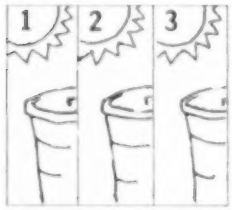


Place in covered metal container.

2

Soak with water.

3



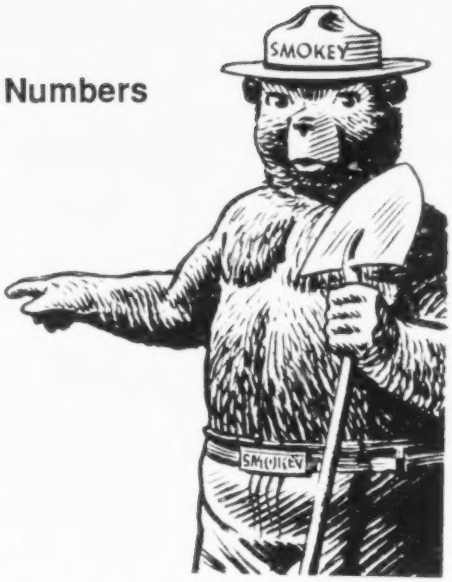
Cover, let sit for 2-3 days before disposal. Be sure ashes are out-cold.

4

Dispose of cold ashes in cleared area or legal dump.

It's your responsibility to prevent fires!
If you don't, who will?

Emergency Phone Numbers



In case of fire call:

Fire Protection Agency _____

Fire Department _____

Police _____

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